

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1. (Currently amended) A cutting machine for organic plant materials, comprising:

a stationary main frame having an opening;

a cutting head mounted in a said stationary main frame accessible through said opening to define a cutting zone;

a feeding-compacting arrangement frame, comprising transporters for feeding the material into a said cutting zone of the cutting head in said stationary frame, and having means for compacting and/or polarizing mutual distribution of fed particles, and

horizontal guides extending outwardly and fixed to said main frame along above said opening on which said feeding-compacting arrangement frame can be supported so as to be able to be moved toward and away from said main frame to permit access to said cutting head; and

wherein said horizontal guides are located above said opening of said main frame and above said feeding-compacting arrangement frame.

2. (Previously presented) A cutting machine according to claim 1, wherein the cutting head is a cutterhead with the main axis of rotation being horizontal.

3. (Previously presented) A cutting machine according to claim 2, wherein the cutterhead is provided with a number of cutting knives, symmetrically arranged around its perimeter, the number being divisible by 2, 4, 8 or 16.

4. (Previously presented) A cutting machine according to claim 3, wherein the cutting knives have cutting edges situated at an angle (delta) relatively to the horizontal direction during the cutting/comminuting operation.

5. (Previously presented) A cutting machine according to claim 4, wherein the distance (a) between the lower knife edge of the mouthpiece and a surface of a cylinder described by the cutting edges of the cutting knives of the cutterhead is almost zero.

6. (Previously presented) A cutting machine according to claim 4, wherein the angle (delta) is in the range from 0° to 15°.

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Previously presented) A cutting machine according to claim 1, further comprising an integral control system (EC).

9. (Previously presented) A cutting machine according to claim 1, further comprising a shield element for the cutting edges of the cutting knives on the side of an access space on the main frame to the cutting head.

10. (Previously presented) A cutting mechanism according to claim 6 wherein the angle (delta) is in the range from 0° to 10°.

11. (New) A cutting mechanism according to claim 1 wherein said horizontal guides comprise extending horizontal rods.